

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 34085 200608Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /069 W  
----- 063482 /17

R 200530Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7339  
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH  
SUBJECT: PRAPHAT DOES NOT RETURN DECEMBER 19

REF: BANGKOK 33988

SUMMARY: FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT, FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DID NOT RETURN DECEMBER 19 AS PREDICTED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR SAMAK (REFTEL). HE IS STILL EXPECTED TO RETURN SHORTLY, HOWEVER, PERHAPS AFTER THE JAN 3 WEDDING OF THE CROWN PRINCE. END SUMMARY.

1. CONTRARY TO INTERIOR MINISTER SAMAK SUNTHORAWET'S STATEMENT AT THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT CLUB OF THAILAND ON DEC 7 (SEE REFTEL), FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIAN, FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DID NOT RPT NOT RETURN TO THAILAND ON SUNDAY, DEC. 19.

2. ALTHOUGH PRAPHAT DID NOT RETURN FROM TAIPEI, HIS WIFE, THANPHUYING SAWAI, DID, ON DEC 18, ACCOMPANIED BY CHATCHAPHON, WIFE OF PRAPHAT'S NEPHEW MAJ CHAICHAN THIANPRAPHAT, DIRECTOR OF ARMY TV CHANNEL 7. THANPHUYING SAWAI TOLD REPORTERS THAT PRAPHAT WAS IN GOOD  
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HEALTH AND SAID "HE WILL BE HERE SOON". HER DAUGHTER, CAPT SUMITRA, WHO HAD RETURNED ON DEC 15 FROM A VISIT TO TAIPEI, ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT PRAPHAT WOULD RETURN TO BANGKOK SOON.

3. ACCORDING TO A DEC 19 NATION REVIEW ARTICLE, PRAPHAT

ACCEDED ONCE AGAIN TO A GOVERNMENT REQUEST THAT HE POST-PONE HIS RETURN TO THAILAND, THIS TIME UNTIL AFTER THE WEDDING OF THE CROWN PRINCE (JAN 3). THE PRESS SPECULATED THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN'S UNEXPECTED TRIP TO TAIPEI RECENTLY WAS TO DISSUADE PRAPHAT FROM RETURNING AT THIS TIME.

4. THE DEC 19 PRESS REPORTED STATEMENTS BY PRAPHAT'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER, MRS. CHIRAPHA ATTANAN, THAT HER FATHER IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THAILAND NEXT MONTH, NOT DEC 18 OR 19. SHE ALSO IS SAID TO HAVE CONFIRMED THAT GEN KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN, DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER, HAD MET HER FATHER IN TAIPEI IN NOVEMBER AND ASKED HIM TO DELAY HIS RETURN TO THAILAND FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS, SINCE HIS RETURN MIGHT AFFECT THE STABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT. AT THAT TIME EMBASSY HAD INDICATIONS THAT PRAPHAT'S RETURN WAS IMMINENT. PRAPHAT ACCEDED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PLEAS, WHICH WERE NEVER PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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